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[*Please read this report, and preserve the list of visitors for future reference.*]

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Jamaica Plain Friendly Society.

BOSTON

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BOSTON
GUILDREN'S
AID SOCIETY

Thirteenth Annual Report

OF THE

JAMAICA PLAIN FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

In sending out our thirteenth report of this Society, we have no new story to tell, as our work must necessarily be much the same from year to year; but as at this season the committee and visitors are ready to start upon their duties with fresh life and energy, we hope that our friends may also be ready to help us again, not only with their money, but with their interest and sympathy.

In comparing the statistics of the past two or three years with those of our first years, it will be readily seen that the number of applicants to our Society has almost steadily diminished, and the questions might naturally be asked, Is the Society less needed than formerly? or, Is there less readiness to assist the poor, so that they do not apply for help?

In answer to the first, it may be said that a change has come about in our community during the last eight or ten years. The factories which have been established here, and the increased facilities for travel between here and Boston, make it much easier for the industrious and able-bodied to find steady occupation than ever before. This, and the fact that the shiftless, lazy, and intemperate have learned that an application for help means an investigation of their circum-

stances (which they do not want), will, we think, account for the smaller number of families visited and helped. But the suffering and deserving poor are among us still, and it is to help them in the wisest way that we hope to continue to use our best efforts.

We have had several cases where either the head or some important member of the family was disabled by illness, and where much help was needed. The visitors have been able to give great relief at these times by supplying food, fuel, and clothing, and perhaps better than anything else are the words of sympathy that can be given when the future looks dark and almost hopeless.

Among these cases, we recall one where a respectable young man, who had been here only a few months from England, with his wife and young children, and who had good employment, suddenly broke down with serious illness. The temporary wants of the family were supplied; but after a few weeks the visitor saw that the man's prospects for recovery were very poor, and feeling that it would be very trying for such a family to be long dependent upon charity, she suggested obtaining help to enable them to return to England, and found that they would gladly do this. The plan was most satisfactorily carried out, and although it seemed hard to send them back to their old home with such a sad future before them, they were undoubtedly far happier to go than to continue among strangers under such circumstances.

In another family a deserving young girl, whose wages were of great importance to her family, was obliged to give up her work and go to the hospital for a time. Here, besides the usual orders for food and fuel, the visitor obtained private aid to enable her to pay the rent for a time. Nothing causes

greater anxiety to poor people, especially to those of the respectable class, than the inability to meet their rent when it is due, and although, as a Society, we have found it wise to exclude this sort of aid, the committee has always approved of meeting special cases, either by making a loan or gift, according to circumstances. It is never difficult in this community to find generous friends ready to furnish us with means to aid every such need, and this is one of the most cheering phases of the visitors' work.

The cases of the character we have mentioned are not difficult ones. They require time, interest, and sympathy, and must be followed up after the special need is past, that we may not lose our hold upon families whom we may help in many ways by continuing our friendly visits. For the children especially we can do much by showing our interest in their study and work and also by providing some occasional amusement or recreation, of which they have very little in their narrow lives.

The poverty which is caused by intemperance brings the most perplexing and trying questions, and we find more and more how carefully, if at all, help must be given in such cases. No discussions at our monthly meetings have been more earnest than those upon this sad and difficult subject, and although we sometimes feel that there has been some gain since our Society started, we fully realize how much remains to be done, and we hope that each year we and all who are interested may be able to do better work in this direction.

We trust that our friends will bear in mind that the visitors and committee are always ready to investigate all cases which are brought to their notice, and we cannot too often beg that no charity shall be given at the doors or on the streets, as the

applicants for such aid are almost certain to prove unworthy. These street beggars usually give wrong addresses, so that it is impossible to trace them, and this in itself is a sufficient proof of their character. An occasional case of real need may come to our notice in this way, but even then it is better to take time for a visit of investigation, that the truth may be known and the best kind of help given.

Our sewing has been given mostly to elderly women and to those who, for some reason, were not able to go out to work, and to such it has been a great assistance during the winter months. To a few who have proved competent, we have been able to furnish a good deal of sewing for private orders. A few permanent places for applicants have been found, and for many others regular places for sewing, washing, or cleaning. This part of our work we consider of great value and importance, and here too we are very much helped by the coöperation of our friends.

We are very grateful to all who have remembered our Room as a bureau of communication between applicants for work and those who want work done, and hope that we may become still more useful in this direction in the future.

Our thanks are due to many kind friends who have sent us packages of clothing during the year; to the Gas Company, for their usual gift of coke, and to Mr. Vogel, for a box of boots and shoes.

Fifty families have been visited during the year, and four hundred visits have been made. Twenty-three women have received sewing at the hall. Five of these have been employed on private orders.

Employment, temporary or permanent, has been found for ten women, two boys, and one man.

The number of articles made by the women during the year was 1,125. This includes for

New England Hospital	155
Children's Mission	59
City Hospital	150
Massachusetts Infant Asylum	120

the rest being for the Society and for private orders. One hundred and thirty-four articles of clothing and seventy-three pairs of boots and rubbers have been given away.

Our agent, Mr. Bradley, will be found, as usual, at Curtis Hall every day — excepting Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays — from ten until one.

ELLEN C. MORSE.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

October 6, 1886, to August 10, 1887.

RECEIPTS.

Balance from last year	$368.98
Subscriptions	965.33
Sales	185.60
From loan	7.20
Returned by agent	9.57
	$1,536.68

EXPENDITURES.

Agent's salary	$300.00	
Materials	105.02	
Work through Employment Committee	223.68	
Provisions and milk	127.20	
Boots and shoes	64.30	
Fuel	26.65	
Printing	23.10	
Associated Charities	100.00	
Postage and stationery	1.88	
Cash on hand	564.85	
		$1,536.68

Respectfully submitted.

E. W. CLARK, *Treasurer.*

OFFICERS OF THE JAMAICA PLAIN FRIENDLY SOCIETY FOR 1886–87.

President: Rev. S. U. Shearman.

Vice-Presidents: Mr. Charles P. Bowditch, Mr. Charles B. Cumings, Mr. C. E. Guild, Mrs. D. S. Greenough, Rev. George M. Boynton, Rev. William Bradley.

Secretary: Miss Caroline E. Chickering.

Treasurer: Mr. E. W. Clark.

Assistant Treasurer: Miss Ellen C. Morse.

Executive Committee: Dr. George Faulkner, Chairman; Dr. E. P. Gerry, Rev. Charles F. Dole, Mrs. T. B. Frothingham, Mrs. R. W. Wood, Mrs. Charles E. Guild.

VISITORS FOR THE PRESENT YEAR.

District 1, west of Centre Street; visitor, Miss E. C. Morse, Prince Street; associate, Rev. George M. Boynton, Chestnut Avenue.

District 2, vicinity of horse-railroad station; visitor, Miss Kate Folsom, Lakeville Place; associate, Mr. Patrick McMorrow, Forest Hills Street.

District 3, vicinity of Forest Hills station; visitor, Mrs. A. D. Weld, Forest Hills Street; associate, Dr. A. H. Eayrs.

District 4, Canterbury, Mount Hope division; visitors, Miss Faulkner, Revere Street, Miss Chickering, Green Street; associate, Dr. Faulkner.

District 5, Canterbury Street; visitor, Mrs. H. D. Morse, Pond Street; associate, Dr. Gerry.

District 6, Canterbury, eastern division; visitor, Mrs. Alfred Stebbins, Walk Hill Street; associate, Mr. C. E. Guild.

District 7, Washington Street, and territory lying east thereof; visitors, Mrs. N. S. Wakefield, Beethoven Street, and Mrs. Austin B. French, Seaverns Avenue; associate, Dr. A. P. Perry.

District 8, Keyes Street; visitor, Mrs. James Low, Forest Hills Street; associate, Dr. H. C. Ernst.

District 9, Carolina Avenue, Child Street, etc.; visitor, Miss Davis, at Dr. Wood's, Revere Street; associate, Mr. Chas. B. Cumings, Greenough Avenue.

District 10, Starr Street, Union Avenue, and vicinity; visitors, Mrs. C. S. Waldo, Centre Street, and Mrs. C. B. Cumings, Greenough Avenue; associate, Rev. C. F. Dole.

District 11, Green, Lamartine, Chestnut Streets, etc.; visitor, Mrs. James Lee, Story Place; associate, Rev. S. U. Shearman.

District 12, Boylston Avenue and Green Street to Washington Street; visitors, Miss Jacques, Cedar Avenue, and Mrs. Samuel G. Thaxter, Sigourney Street; associate, Dr. H. C. Ernst.

District 13, Spring Park, Sheridan Avenue, etc.; visitor, Mrs. William Bradley, Cedar Avenue; associate, Rev. William Bradley.

District 14, east of Boylston Avenue, from Green Street to Egleston Square; visitor, Mrs. E. P. Butler, A Street, near Boylston Street; associate, Mr. George W. Fowle.

SOLICITORS FOR 1887–88.

District No.	1.	Miss Charlotte Bowditch.
,, ,,	2.	Miss Ellen C. Morse.
,, ,,	3.	Mrs. William Carter.
,, ,,	4.	Miss Nellie Evans.
,, ,,	5.	Miss Lillie French.
,, ,,	6.	Miss C. W. Guppy.
,, ,,	7.	Miss Mary Faulkner.
,, ,,	8.	Miss Skinner.
,, ,,	9.	Miss Helen Weld.
,, ,,	10.	Miss Frances Harris.
,, ,,	11.	Miss Catherine Spooner.
,, ,,	12.	Miss Marion Q. Winslow.
,, ,,	13.	Mrs. C. A. Johnson.
,, ,,	14.	Miss Annie Stedman.
,, ,,	15.	Mrs. T. W. Seaverns, Jr.